

Medical Laboratory
Personnel and Education Committee
Minutes

Date: October 14, 2009

Time: 1:00 PM CDT

Location: Bureau of Health, Licensure and Regulation
TN. Dept. of Health
Heritage Place – Iris Room
227 French Landing, Ground Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Members Present: Darius Wilson, MAT, Ed.D. Education, Chairperson
Norman Crowe, Independent Lab Management/Admin.
Trudy Papuchis, M.D.
Cheryl Arnott, S.A.- Cytotechnologist
Diane Robbins, M.T.
Christopher Seay, M.T.

Members Absent: Annie Washington, M.T.

Staff Present: Lynda S. England, M.T. Director
Jerry A. Gowen, M.T. Consultant
Alison Cleaves, Deputy General Counsel
Advisory Attorney

Staff Absent: All Staff Present

Presiding Officer: Darius Wilson

Minutes: Minutes from this meeting were presented to the Medical Laboratory Board for approval.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM CDT by Ms. Wilson

Ms. Wilson formally introduced Ms. Cheryl Arnott to the audience and other board members. This was Ms. Arnott's first official meeting as a board member. Her appointment represents the licensure category, special analyst – cytotechnologist, and assumed the vacant position formerly held by Ms. Allison McDonald-Spakes.

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Ms. Wilson formally introduced Mr. Jerry Gowen to the audience and other board members. Mr. Gowen is the new Medical Technologist Consultant to the Board.

Ms. Wilson recognized Alison Cleaves. Ms Cleaves reviewed the Conflict of Interest Policy with the committee members

Proceedings and Action Taken:

Review Correspondence: Personnel Issues

Review Files for Eligibility:

Ying Qi
Nashville, TN
Special Analyst – Cytogenetics

WES Credential Evaluation:
Graduate Medical College of Qingdao University
Qingdao, Shandong, P.R. China, 1983

Cytology Training: August 1, 2007-March 10, 2009
Colorado Genetics Laboratory
Denver, Colorado

NCA-Clinical Laboratory Specialist in Cytogenetics
03-16-2009

Special Analyst-Clinical Cytogenetics

Motion to approve license: Mr. Crowe
Second: Mr. Seay

License Approved

Steven Monday
Dunnellon, FL
Medical Laboratory Technician

Education: Applied Technology Diploma
Community Technical Adult Education Center
Ocala, FL
2004

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Training: Community Technical Adult Education Center
Ocala, FL
Program Approved by Florida DOH, Clinical Laboratory
Board, TP 237
Licensed in the State of Florida.

There was much discussion on Mr. Monday's educational qualification centered around the Associates Degree requirement vs. Technical School diploma. It was noted that the hours earned at the Technical School could be transferred to apply to an associates degree, however those hours would not necessarily be enough to grant such degree.

The committee felt it needed more information from Mr. Monday regarding these concerns.

A motion was made by Mr. Crowe to table this application until the next meeting and to request further information from the applicant in regard to an associates degree.

Second: Mr. Seay

There was continued discussion, post approved motion, regarding the Associate Degree requirement and whether there would be any discretion regarding any alternative pathway. The general consensus was if there was no documentation of an Associates Degree, then application would be denied. There was no move to reconsider the motion and this applicant was placed on the next committee meeting agenda.

Urshit Parikh
Rego Park, NY
Medical Laboratory Technologist - General

Evaluation: International Educational Research
Foundation, Inc.
Education: B.S Degree in Microbiology 1977 and
Chemistry 1981 Bombay India

Training: Bombay School of Medical Technology
Bombay, India
Graduated: February 28, 1981

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Certification: AMT Registry
Medical Laboratory Technologist
January 18, 2008

Motion to approve License: Mr. Seay
Second: Mr. Crowe

License approved

Florentina Baker
Cordova, TN
Medical Laboratory Technologist – General

Mr. Seay recused himself from the discussion and vote.

This application was reviewed by the committee because applicant has shown no work experience as a generalist, working exclusively in Chemistry after licensure as an MT in Chemistry. Applicant was seeking licensure as a generalist and there is no set policy in regard to generalist work experience. The Board consultants questioned the intent of the rules with the documentation provided and deferred to the committee to examine, question and decide the applicant's request.

Past Licensure History: MLT General 1986
MT-Chemistry 1988 by State Examination.

Certification: AMT exam: August 28, 2009
MT-Generalist

There was discussion on the topic of specialist vs. generalist, experience level and continuing education. The question was also raised as to whether or not any precedent had been set as to what type of work experience is acceptable to qualify as a generalist as opposed to a specialist.

Mr. Crowe stated that the AMT is recognized as a certifying agency, that the experience pathway for a generalist is not clearly stated and that Ms. Baker had met the requirements as a generalist for AMT.

Motion to approve license as a Medical Technologist -
Generalist: Mr. Crowe

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Second: Ms. Robbins

License approved

Allen Robinson
McDonald, TN
Medical Laboratory Technologist – General

Education: B.S. Degree 1968
Southern Adventist University
Collierville, TN

Certification: ASCP Medical Technologist 1967

No work experience in laboratory field since 1972.

Completed 24.5 hours of CE's in 2009

There was discussion regarding the amount of time since the applicant received his degree and training and that there was no documented bench experience in many years. There were also questions raised about the applicant's work at Takoma General Hospital as a laboratory manager in Greenville, Tennessee, from 1968 to 1972. .

Discussions led to a motion to deny licensure until further information is available.

Motion to disapprove licensure as a Medical Laboratory Technologist - General: Mr. Crowe
Second: Mr. Seay

License Denied.

Nimsha Desai
Nashville, TN
Medical Laboratory Technician

Evaluation: Educational Evaluators International, Inc.
Transcript evaluation indicates the U.S. equivalent of a B.S. in microbiology and a M.S. in medical technology.
Educated and clinically trained in India.

National Certification: AMT as an MLT, May 2009.

No discussion

Motion to approve license as a Medical Laboratory
Technician: Dr. Papuchis
Second: Mr. Seay

License approved.

Reinstatement Applications:

No applications were reviewed by the committee members
during this meeting.

Reactivate-Retired Applications

No applications were reviewed by the committee members
during this meeting.

Review Consultant Approval and Ratification of Personnel Applications

New Licenses and Temporary Licenses (Attachment 1)

The committee reviewed the director-approved list of initial and temporary licenses from July 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009.

Reinstatements (Attachment 2)

The committee reviewed the director-approved list of reinstated licenses from July 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009.

Closed Files (Attachment 3)

There were no files closed during this quarter

Retired Files (Attachment 4)

The committee reviewed the director-approved list of retired licenses from July 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009.

Ms. England spoke to the process of administratively closing licenses when there has been no activity in sixty (60) days. She stated that the decision had been made that there would be an initial letter to the applicant stating that that sixty (60) days had lapsed and that the file would be closed after a grace period of

fourteen (14) days after receipt of the letter if no action was taken on the file.

Motion to approve A-D Section 2: Mr Crowe
Second: Ms. Robbins

Administrative Actions: Approved

Review Correspondence: Educational Issues

Approval of Training Program Rotation Site(s)

Cytogenetics Associates
Nashville, TN 37203

Dr. Sophia Stewart, Program Director, Dr. Eric Crawford and Leanne Sheffield were present to answer any questions pertaining to the application as an approved training program for Cytogenetics.

Mr. Crowe had questions regarding administrative requirements and whether or not they had met all the requirements for becoming a training facility. Ms. England saw no reason why they should not be licensed. She also stated that she did not go into the laboratory but had relied on Mr. Otey's previous survey of this licensed facility (June, 2009) that all was in order. (Mr. Onezean Otey is the Medical Technologist Consultant for the Middle Tennessee Region for the State of Tennessee).

The request for approval was for eight (8) students per training cycle. The program was not NAACLS approved, however Dr. Stewart's plans were to pursue the accreditation. At present, there are five (5) programs nationwide that have this accreditation. It was noted that the board had previously approved Esoterix, Brentwood, TN, which was not NAACLS approved

The question of admission criteria was posed and that criteria was summarized by Dr. Stewart. It was noted that students are currently employed as trainees. It was noted that employment was not contingent upon completing the training program.

Motion to approve Cytogenetics Associates training program in Clinical Cytogenetics: Mr. Crowe.
Second: Dr. Papuchis

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Motion Approved

As an additional comment, Ms. England requested that Dr. Stewart forward the Fire Department report to her office.

The Committee took a 10 minute break at 2:30 P.M. and will reconvene at 2:40 P.M.

The committee reconvened at 2:40 P.M. with the agenda in the proper sequence:

Personnel Qualifications for Antiphospholipid Antibody Assay
FISH)-CPT Specialty Code: Immunology

There was some discussion that the committee needed guidance in this topic and that it was important to identify qualified consultants who could provide this guidance. No action taken.

Revisit Policy Statement Concerning Criminal Background Checks
(Adopted October 11, 2008)

There was a discussion with Ms. Cleaves concerning the wording of the policy and the confusion caused by what appeared to be contradictory language in the present policy. One paragraph stated that if two attempts have been made to obtain readable fingerprints have failed, then the board would accept a criminal background check based upon name and social security number. Another paragraph stated that the board will accept a criminal background check upon fingerprints only.

There was further discussion that other State licensing boards may have addressed this issue and that examples might be obtained from them.

Mr. Crowe requested that Ms. Cleaves examine these concerns and rewrite the current policy eliminating the contradictory language.

This issue is to be continued until such revisions are made.

Educational Advisory Committee Rules 1200-06-02 Training
Program Rules rewrite

No Action Taken

Discuss NAACLS approval for Cytogenetic Training programs

There was some discussion on the topic

No Action Taken

Discuss any State nomenclature change on personnel license reflecting merger of NCA and ASCP. (October 23, 2009)

There was discussion regarding the merger of NCA and ASCP which became ASCP BOR. They will be using the term Clinical Laboratory Scientist. The question is will there be any nomenclature change on personnel license?

The certificate issued by the State of Tennessee uses the term Medical Laboratory Professional and the committee discussed that there did not appear to be any apparent problems with retaining that term. Licensure category is defined by TCA §68-29-117(d)(1).

Motion to leave present nomenclature as is: Mr. Crowe
Second: Dr. Papuchis

Motion approved.

TNPAP Contract Renewal

The discussion was to consider renewing the TNPAP contract for July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011.

There were to be no changes made to the contract in language or fees.

Motion to renew TNPAP contract for the period of July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011: Dr. Papuchis
Second: Mr. Seay

Motion approved.

Vanderbilt University Continuing Education Program

This topic withdrawn at this time. No action taken.

Administrative Revocation/Insufficient Funds:

Nothing to report at this time.

OGC Rulemaking Update:

Nothing to report at this time.

Other Business:

There was some discussion regarding the topics: definition of competency, relevant clinical laboratory experience, possible rules for reentering the field after extended absences, definitions of recent experience, acceptable time limits from time of formal education to licensure without proof of experience.

Motion: Ms. Cleaves was asked to investigate what other boards were doing in these areas and to report back to the committee at the next meeting: Mr. Crowe

Second: Mr. Seay

Motion approved.

Statement of Next Meeting

The next Committee Meeting will be January 13, 2010, and will begin at 1 PM CST in the Iris Room, Ground Floor, Heritage Place, 227 French Landing, Metro Center, Nashville, TN. 37243.

Record of Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM CDT on a motion properly presented by Ms. Robbins, seconded by Ms. Arnott.